

going to audition after audition, but nothing seemed to click. At the same time, I started taking classes at the David Craig School of Musical Comedy.

"Then, suddenly, my luck seemed to change. I went to an audition for a musical play called *The Fig Leaves Are Falling*, by Allan Sherman. I was called back four more times. Finally, the fifth time, it was down to another kid and myself . . . and I got the part!

"Wow, what a great feeling. I knew for the first time the true excitement, the exhilaration of the theatre. Besides, I was sure I was on my way. I had a part in an Allan Sherman play directed by the famous Broadway genius George Abbott. I had visions of becoming a star overnight. I didn't . . . the play was a flop! But it was a four-month flop and turned out to be great experience for me. Four months of doing one show is good training. I grew. I learned. And it also led to other things.

"While we were still in Philadelphia during the tryouts, someone from CBS Films saw me and asked me to test for a movie. I said I'd like to but I couldn't just then. However, when the show closed, I did come to Hollywood and I made the test. Well, I didn't get the part, but at least I had my way paid back to California. While I was out here, I thought I would look around. . .

"I met some people at Universal and, two months later, I did an *Ironside*—my first television show. Two more months went by, then I got a part on *The Survivors*. Then there was no work for quite a while. Finally, I did a *Marcus Welby* . . . and suddenly, I was off and running. Right in a row, I was on *Adam-12*, *Medical Center*, *Mod Squad* and *Bonanza*. It was great. Really great! Things just seemed to be opening up for me. . .

"Just after I'd finished *Medical Center*, my manager called and told me that they were doing a pilot over at Screen Gems called *The Partridge Family*. They needed a boy of 16 or 17 who played the guitar and could sing. Since I look a little younger than my real age, I said, 'Fine.' So I went over and had an interview with the head of casting, Renee Valente. I guess she liked me, because I was asked back again.

"It was at the second reading that someone said to me, 'David, we don't mean to throw you a curve, but we are thinking of using your stepmother as the lead. How would you feel?' I laughed. 'Fine,' I said—because that is how I felt. Shirley and I have always gotten along, so it didn't throw me at all . . . but it was the first time I became aware of the fact that Shirley was up for the part. And they didn't tell Shirley I was up for the part, either, until we tested together after I went back for a couple more interviews.

"In fact, they didn't tell anyone else who I was! I guess maybe they were afraid people would think I had used 'pull' to get the job," young Cassidy grins. "The plain truth is, when I went for the first interview I had no idea Shirley was even up for the part, and she had no idea about me. . .

"So anyway, finally they told me—the part was mine! All I can tell you is that when I found out, I was really happy knowing I would have a job in a series. It meant a great deal to me . . . and when

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